

Mayor and City Council

Agenda Item Request

Meeting Date: 5/6/2013

Type: Presentation

Call to Podium:

Michele Potter, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Shana Newman Fajardo, Development Director National Park Trust

Agenda Item Title:

Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating May 18, 2013 as “National Kids to Parks Day” in the City of Gaithersburg

Responsible Staff and Department:

Michele Potter, Director of Parks Recreation and Culture

Desired Outcome from Council:

Issue Proclamation

Public Hearing History	
Introduction Date:	
Advertisement Date :	
Public Hearing Date:	
Record Held Open Date:	
Policy Discussion Date:	
Anticipated Adoption Date:	

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND ON NEXT PAGE

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Supporting Background Information:

The National Park Trust mission is to preserve and protect the Nation's parkland and encourage youth to reconnect with nature. The inaugural "National Kids to Parks Day" was established in May of 2011. This day served as an initial step in forging a partnership between the younger generations and the outdoors. "National Kids to Parks Day" is designed to empower children and encourage families to get outside and visit America's parks as they broaden their appreciation for both nature and the outdoors.

In May of 2012, 260 mayors from 45 states signed proclamations, including Mayor Katz from the City of Gaithersburg.

The City is participating in this special day, on May 18th, and has been included in the events section of the "kidstoparks.org" website, under the State of Maryland. Registered activities include City Youth Sports, the Book Festival and others.

"National Kids to Parks Day" is officially in support of the *First Lady's Let's Move!* campaign. The "National Kids to Parks Day" serves as a tool in educating the youngest members of our community to the values and enjoyment of the National Park system. The long term goal of the National Park Trust is to promote the riches of our parks and further encourage an active lifestyle. Society's awareness and use of these national and local treasures contributes directly to reducing childhood obesity and creating a healthier community.